

Remarks

The Office Action dated June 14, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, and 10-14, and 16-21 are pending in this application. Claims 3-5 and 8-16 stand rejected. Claims 9 and 15 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 7, and 17-21 are allowed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2005, for the above-identified patent application from September 14, 2005, through and including October 14, 2005. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$120.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite "wherein said appliance door assembly is a dishwasher door assembly" which overcomes the cited lack of antecedent basis.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 3-5 are definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 3-5 meet the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 3-5 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8-10, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hughes et al. (Des. 385,070) is respectfully traversed.

Hughes et al. provides an ornamental design of a dishwasher door. The Hughes et al. door includes an escutcheon (designated "a" in the Examiner's drawing) attached to an upper

portion of the door assembly above an outer door panel (designated "b" in the Examiners drawing). The escutcheon and outer door panel are attached to an inner door panel (see Fig. 3). The outer door panel of the Hughes et al. dishwasher door is not outwardly curved between the lateral sides and extending from the top edge to the bottom edge of the outer door panel. The top edge of the escutcheon is chamfered but it is not outwardly curved (see Figures 1 and 4).

Independent Claim 8 recites a unitary outer door panel for a dishwasher that includes "a frame portion comprising opposing lateral sides, a top edge, a bottom edge, and a longitudinal axis; an outer surface portion extending between said opposing lateral sides and said top and bottom edges of said frame portion, said frame portion and said outer surface portion formed as a single piece, said outer surface portion outwardly curved between said lateral sides, said outwardly curved outer surface portion extending from said top to said bottom edges; and a control panel mounting surface within said frame portion and surrounded by said outer surface portion, said control panel mounting surface inclined with respect to said longitudinal axis, such that said control panel mounting surface is mostly shielded by said outer surface portion".

Hughes et al. do not describe nor suggest a unitary outer door panel for a dishwasher as recited in Claim 8. Particularly, Hughes et al. do not describe nor suggest a unitary outer door panel that includes an outer surface portion outwardly curved between the lateral sides, where the outwardly curved outer surface portion extends from the top to the bottom edge. Rather, Hughes et al. illustrate a door that includes an escutcheon with the top edge of the escutcheon chamfered but not outwardly curved. See Figures 1 and 4 of Hughes et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 8 is patentable over Hughes et al.

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claim 10 depends from independent Claim 8. When the recitations of dependent Claim 10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 likewise is patentable over Hughes et al.

Independent Claim 14 recites a dishwasher door assembly that includes "an outer door panel having a longitudinal axis and comprising opposite lateral sides, a bottom edge, a top edge, and an outer surface extending between said lateral sides and said top edge, said outer surface outwardly curved between said lateral sides, said outwardly curved outer surface extending from said top to said bottom edges, said outer surface surrounding a recessed control surface disposed beneath said top edge of said outer panel, such that said recessed control surface is mostly shielded by said top edge, said recessed control surface disposed at an angle with respect to said longitudinal axis, said outer surface formed as a single piece; and an inner door panel attached to said outer door panel".

Hughes et al. do not describe nor suggest a dishwasher door assembly as recited in Claim 14. Particularly, Hughes et al. do not describe nor suggest a dishwasher door assembly that includes an outer surface outwardly curved between the lateral sides, where the outwardly curved outer portion extends from the top edge to the bottom edge. Rather, Hughes et al. illustrate a door that includes an escutcheon with the top edge of the escutcheon chamfered but not outwardly curved. See Figures 1 and 4 of Hughes et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 14 is patentable over Hughes et al.

Claim 15 has been canceled.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102(b) rejection of Claims 8-10, 14, and 15 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 11-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes et al. in view of Cracraft et al.(US 5,698,826) is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, Hughes et al. do not describe nor suggest a unitary outer door panel for a dishwasher as recited in Claim 8 or a dishwasher door assembly as recited in Claim 14. Accordingly, independent Claims 8 and 14 are patentable over Hughes et al.

Cracraft et al. is cited for teaching an appliance control panel that includes a plurality of switch pads, and a mounting plate attached to a housing. Cracraft et al. is not cited for, and does not teach, an outer door panel having an outer surface portion outwardly curved between the lateral sides, where the outwardly curved outer surface portion extends from the top to the bottom edge.

At least for the reasons explained above, Hughes et al. and Cracraft et al., alone or in combination, do not describe nor suggest a unitary outer door panel for a dishwasher as recited in Claim 8 or a dishwasher door assembly as recited in Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claims 8 and 14 is patentable over Hughes et al. and Cracraft et al., alone or in combination.

Claims 11-13 depend from independent Claim 8 and, Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 14. When the recitations of dependent Claims 11-13, and Claim 16 are considered in combination with Claims 8 and 14 respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11-13 and 16 likewise are patentable over Hughes et al. and Cracraft et al., alone or in combination.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 11-13 and 16 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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